

Summer still has critical days left

By: LtC. Mark Lynskey
179th Safety Office

With Memorial Day behind us and Independence Day creeping up, this signals to the safety office the "101 Critical Days of Summer." Most of us have long since quit paying attention to this trite phrase. In our fast paced, information based world with ever changing messages and media, if it isn't new, catchy and flashy we quickly disregard and move on.

It is a rather bitter irony that on Memorial Day, a day we remember those that have died in our nations service, we started a period that signals our highest national injury/fatality rate.

Those items which make our summer such a great thing to look forward to also make it statistically the highest mishap period of the year. The summer vacation; often a period where we drive a great distance. We press to get there as quick as we can and to get home as quick as we can so we can 'maximize' our quality time with our family and loved ones. Unfortunately, many people end up in car accidents driving in bad weather or just driving too long. Some of these accidents are minor injuries, others are major injuries and fatalities. (Did you know statistically the Air Force and ANG experiences most accidents and injuries due to off duty vehicle mishaps?)

Cooling off during the hot summer days in the pool or out at the lake is lots of fun and relaxing. But it is also filled with hazards.

How much time off from work can you really afford? Is it really worth risking injuries to yourself or family?

All of us wear a uniform and answer one of the highest calls of any nation, protecting the health and well being of the nation.

We should afford ourselves and our family the same consideration. Most of us would agree the health and well being of our family and ourselves is very important. But it is something we take for granted most of the time. After an accident happens we cannot go back.

As you enjoy the summer with your family, please remember that safety does not just begin and end at the gates of the 179th AW.

A taste of home goes overseas

Members of the 179th deployed overseas are getting a special taste of home. In late May, a container filled with nearly 1,300 pounds of pretzel-making supplies (enough to make nearly 5,000 Auntie Anne's soft pretzels), along with notes of encouragement and other gifts, was delivered to Mansfield Lahm Airport, where it was loaded into a C-130 cargo plane to begin the first leg of its journey to troops participating in *Operation Enduring Freedom*.

The idea for the special shipment came when Master Sgt. Charlie Bauer, a 20+ year veteran of the Ohio Air National Guard, answered the call to duty for *Operation Enduring Freedom*. Bauer, also an Auntie Anne's franchisee and business partner to Ray and Lisa McConnell, thought soft pretzels would be a great way to give his fellow airmen a "taste of home," all while helping to boost their morale.

Softball season underway

By: Capt. Patrick Baker
179th Medical Squadron

The softball season finally kicked off during the June UTA. Four teams participated in the opening weekend of play with more than 50 players participating. Ten teams are scheduled to play during the upcoming months. Congratulations to the Clinic (A) squad and the CE squadron for starting off the season with a victory. Please note the following games times for all future games. We look forward to an exciting summer of co-ed softball. Please join us at the softball fields to support your team.

Schedule of games

July 1530 Comm vs. Maint
UTA 1630 CE vs. Wing
1730 Supply vs Clinic B
1830 MPF vs Clinic AM
1930 AGS vs. APS

August 1530 Clinic B vs. Clinic A
UTA 1630 Supply vs. CE
1730 Comm vs. MPF
1830 AGS vs. Maint
1930 Wing vs. APS

September UTA
Playoffs / Tournament
Top six teams to be announced